5

# Yozakura Quartet

Suzuhito Yasuda

デルレイ

Yozakura Quartet 5

Suzuhito Yasuda

Ballantine Books

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Quartet of cherry blossoms in the night

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## 5

Suzuhito Yasuda

Translated by Satsuki Yamashita
Adapted by Nunzio DeFilippis and Christina Weir
Lettered by North Market Street Graphics

Ballantine Books · New York

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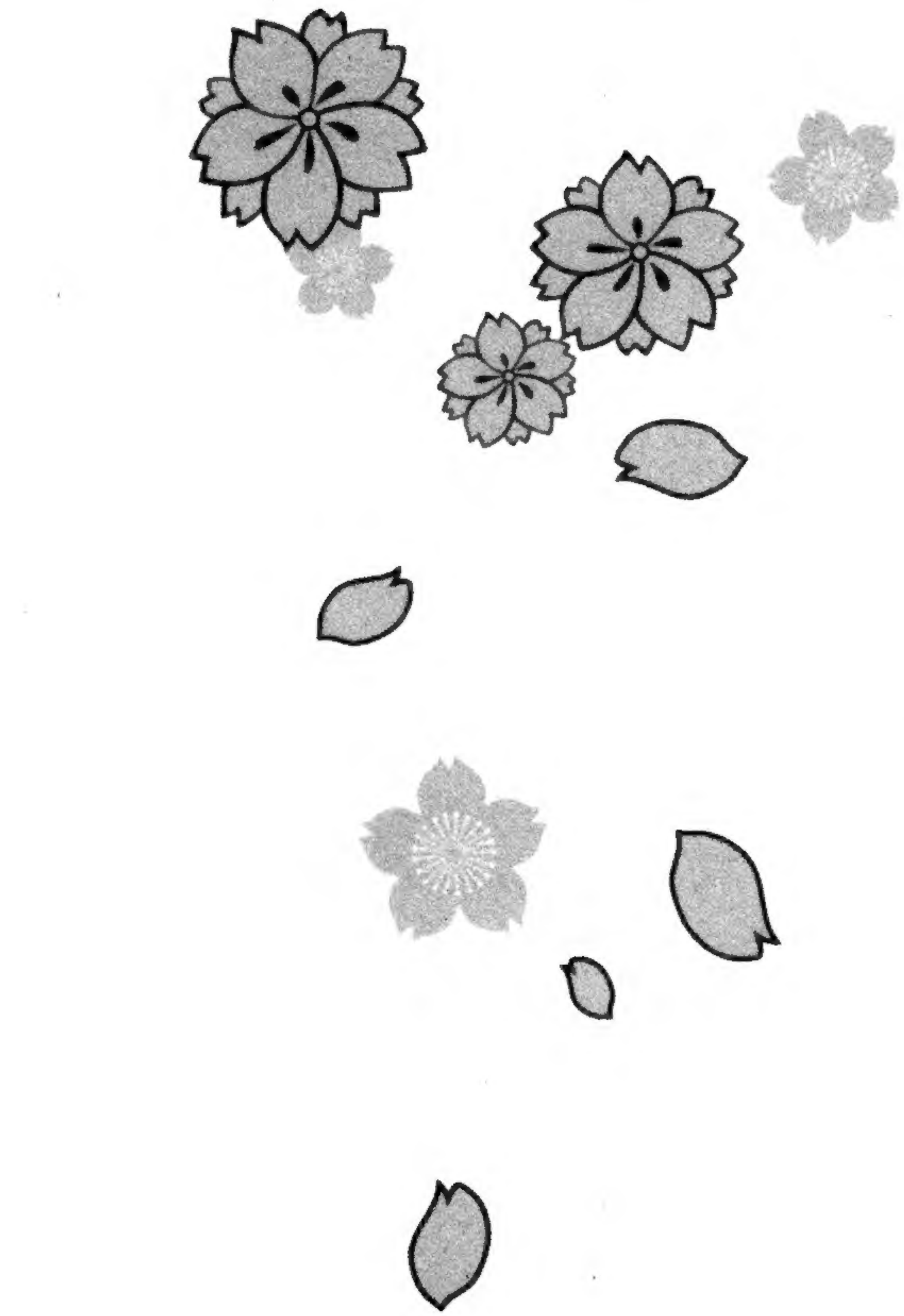
# A Note from the Author

All the characters on the covers hold an instrument, and I would like them to be part of a jazz band rather than a full orchestra or a rock band. So Touka gets the trombone. My favorite musician said, "It's awesome to have an all-girl brass section!" I agreed wholeheartedly. I would like to draw a scene where Touka flings around a trombone while playing it (although I don't think there will ever be a scene like that).

Suzuhito Yasuda



# Honorifics Explained

Throughout the Del Rey Manga books, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Del Rey not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in Del Rey Manga.

-san: This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., or Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.

-sama: This is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect.

-dono: This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

-kun: This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.

-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

Bozu: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" and "squirt."

Sempai/
Senpai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

Kohai: This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

Sensei: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

-[blank]: This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute*, it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.

# Yozakura Quartet 5

Suzuhito Yasuda

# Yozakura Quartet

CHARACTER PROFILE

Quartet of cherry blossoms in the night

Akina Hiizumi

The director of the Hiizumi Life Counseling Office. He is a normal human who has to deal with all the weirdness that occurs in the town.

Hime Yarizakura

Hime is the mayor of Sakurashin Town. She is in high school. She has superhuman abilities.

An employee of the Hiizumi Life Counseling Office. She is a satori, a demon that can read minds.

Ao Nanami

Kotoha Isone

A part-time worker at the Hiizumi Life Counseling Office. She is a kotodama user, someone who can conjure up anything she speaks.

Kyosuke Kishi

Hime's assistant. He keeps his demon powers in check with shackles. He cares deeply for his younger sister, Touka, and he is constantly worried about her.

Touka Kishi

Kyosuke's younger sister. She can't control her demon powers. She is secretly in love with Akina.

The land god of Sakurashin Town. She is often seen wandering the streets.

Yae Shinatsuhiko

Juri

A demon doctor and town icon. Lately, she has been abstaining from show business.

Mariabell

Yuhi's secretary. She is always ordered to cosplay, but she seems to enjoy it.

Yuhi Shinatsuhiko

The district mayor who coordinates the towns. He is also a land god. Deep down, he is a perverted old man.

Shidou Mizuki

He is a cop, but everyone tends to forget that fact. He is busy watching over Mina and Kana.

Rin Azuma

A Jiang Shi who works at a ramen restaurant. It looks like she doesn't work much, but she does.

Kana Tatebayashi

Mina Tatebayashi

Twins who are mermaid-vampire hybrids. They grow when they immerse themselves in water.

A descendant of Enyou Hiizumi. He took over Gin's (Ao's older brother) body, and he is planning to make the Seven Pillars bloom in order to merge the two dimensions.

Enjin Hiizumi

Usuzumi Iyo

Senate

Shidare Morioka

Uzu Kibune

## OUTLINE

Hime and the gang resolved the mayoral election in the neighboring town. Now there are new problems, like Enjin and the Seven Pillars. But they are working hard every day, taking it one step at a time.

# Yozakura Quartet Contents

007 ... To Hold
041 ... City of God
075 ... Overlapping
109 ... Sea of Stars (Part1)
145 ... Sea of Stars (Part2)
178 ... Extras

TROT

TROT

HUM-
dee-
dum.

HUM-
dee-
dum.

PLIP

Akina-san has his physical exam today, huh?

BUZZ

BUZZ

I can't let this opportunity pass by.

I never get a chance to be alone with him at the office because everyone is always there.

Hello!

Akina-san?

カラ・カラ・

CLANG

I'M here!

Hey.

Oh. Hi, Touka.

You're here, too...

And Juri-san.

Oh. Hi, Hime-chan.

# 23rd Night: To Hold

I wasn't expecting Hime-chan, though.

Well, of course Juri-san is here.

ちゅー

ちゅー SLURP

?

But I can't have Hime-chan get in my way every time...

ちゅー SLURP

Okay, it all looks good.

I sense negative energy.

PUMP
もり
もり

!

But I'M confident about my strength!

But Hime-chan...

You need to learn to control your powers.

HM?

That's not what I'M talking about.

I'M stronger than she is!

Me!

Me!

M-Me, too!

Even though I don't like it.

THUMD

Okay.

I'll play with you both.

ちょいちょい

TWOINK

TWOINK

Come here.

Ready?

MUNCH

おーおー

MUNCH

Okay.

!

GRIP

Go!

UH...URGH!

URGH!

Huh?

Huh?

Eep!

See?

Here.

Whoa

TUG

Ack

SPIN

SPIN

GRIP

When you master this, you'll strain yourself less and won't get hurt.

It's all about how you use your bones and muscles.

Don't always rely on strength, but use it well!

Even a pure human like me can overpower demons.

HUH

Oh. Okay.

It's your turn, Akina-chan. Okay.

MUNCH MUNCH

In some ways, she's almost demon-like.

GULP

HMM.

You seem off today.

Oh, well. Let's just do it.

Okay.

Are you sure?

CRUNCH

CRUNCH

OWWWWW!

I...I don't think so.

Have you done a lot of tuning lately?

GRIP

Mmph.
.....

FLARE

.....
Umph.

You're amazing, Juri-san.

I didn't do much.

CLAP CLAP

Wow.

Come see me when you think you're off again.

RELEASE

All done.

Does that mean...

...another human...

...which is to say a creature from this world... needs to hold their hand to fix it.

When someone is off...

If he made a dog give its paw...?

I don't know about that.

WOOF

So I didn't really do anything.

...if a demon like me...

A creature from this world....

So that means...

Or me... held his hand...

Mm, it probably wouldn't do anything.

I see.....

I feel better.

Hime-chan.

SST ズ

ヒョコ

GLEAM

Whoa! You scared me.

CLICK カチカチ

I have school tomorrow.

Oh, it's you, Touka.

Hime-chan.

Can I sleep with you tonight?

?

About what Juri-san said earlier today...

Yeah?

Hey, Hime-chan?

Nothing.

What do you think about it?

Yeah.

About how she can fix Akina-san by holding hands...

Can demons...

One more thing.

Yeah?

Yeah. I guess so.

She said demons can't do it, so it has nothing to do with us.

Can they be happy?

If demons...

...and humans...

...fall in love...

.....

.....

I see.

I don't know.

LIFT

Why?

Noth-ing.

I want a reason to hold his hand.

It's only to fix Akina-san...

Even if

FEEL

I'll go to sleep, too.

RUSTLE

Huh?!

She fell asleep?

Zzz...

I'm still awake.

.....

Hold hands, huh?

Here we are!

Think of this as your home.

This house was too big for Grandmother and me, so this is perfect.

. . . . .

Oh, Akina.

よじ CLIMB

Are they new?

Hey.

PAT PAT

Sure thing!

Yeah. Can you be friends with them, too?

SQUEEZE

I'M Akina Hiizumi. Nice to meet you!

It doesn't matter! Nice to meet you!

Wh-Why are you shaking my hand?!

Ouch!

Nice to meet you, too!

GRAB

ACK!

TROD

TROD

TROD

You're going to make it MY fault?!

TROD

'Cause you forgot to set the alarm, Hime-chan!

TROD

TROD

It's because you came into my room as I was setting it!

I remember now!

Ugh.

Th-That has nothing to do with it!

URGH

TROD

Toast (for being late)

TROD

SST

ACK!

Ack! We're late!

TROD

TROD

TROD

Why didn't Onii-chan wake us up?!

Four eyes!

TROD

TROD

Ahh!

WHAM

Akina!

Owww.

Why are you in your school uniform?

Oh.

Ouch.

Oh.

Today's a holiday.

Holiday ?!

. . . .

STARE じ!!

I haven't done that since we were kids.
Hold hands with Akina?

ちぅちぅ
SLURP

はた
BLINK

TING

She must be thinking...!

TING

Demon power? No! Girl power!

I can work your pressure points.

You guys sure know a lot of things.

GRAB

Akina!

Let me read your palm.

You can do that?

GRR

GRAB

A-Akina-san.

Your hands are dirty. Let me wipe them for you.

Oh yeah?

HMDH

Agh.
Ugh.
I can paint his nails.
GRAB
CRACK
Argh.
I...I can straighten the bones in his fingers.
GRR
You're a klutz who forgets to turn on the alarm clock.
Can you get out of the way?
Geez, Hime-chan.
What? It's your fault!
You stay out of the way!
GRR
GRR
AKINA
EEK
You let go of him!
Don't get in My way!
EEK
EEK
Cu...
Cu...
EEK
EEK

ACK!

BOOM

Cut it out already !!

Geez.

SAD

What are you guys trying to do to my hand?

THROB

It's because of what Juri-san said yesterday.

Oh. Fixing me when I'm off?

She explained it to you guys.

Only humans can do it.

You two are both demons, so you can't do it.

.....

She said to learn how to use your powers.

But she told you one more thing.

Did you forget?

UM.

No.

Oh.

That'll help me a lot.

Got it?

If both of you learned to use your powers better, then I probably wouldn't have to tune as much.

Okay.

Sorry.

Okay.

That's right.

I under-stand.

Th-That's because...

WIGGLE

...that you guys are so into it.

It's so strange...

...wanted to...

...hold hands...

I...

Me too.

Hold hands?

SQUEEZE

!

Like this?

.....

.....

.....

?

はぁ…

SIGH

Okay.

Here we go.

...

Let's leave him here.

Let's go home, Touka.

Oh well.

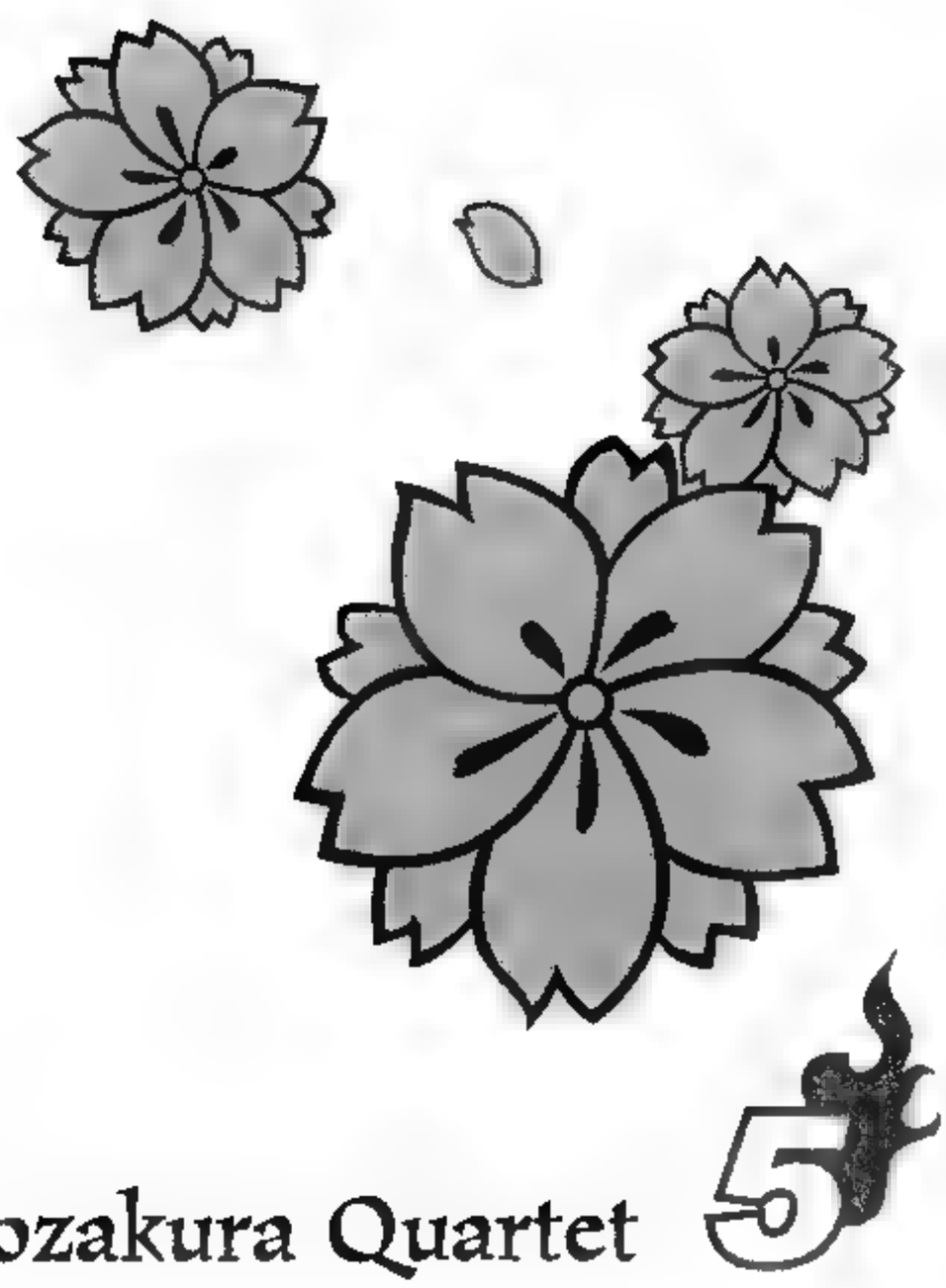
We just ate breakfast, though.

Let's take a nap together afterward.

I guess I'll eat lunch when we get home.

?

23rd Night: To Hold The END



Yozakura Quartet 5

# Primary Stages of Yozakura Quartet

5

## Pigeons like Touka

No way.

TROT

Huh? A Bear?

TROT

What was that?

Oh, that was Rin.

She said she saw a bear in the city.

What? A bear?

PLIP

Yeah. I'm running errands, so I'll talk to you later.

That's not possible.

TROT

TROT

Yo!

That's true.

We're not in the mountains, so there's no way.

ZZT

Running errands?

Yes.

We're going to pick up some shackles and tags that Yae-san finished.

Okay.

Let's go together.

We were heading there, too.

You sound like an old man, sir.

You ladies look mighty pretty today.

Hello.

Oh, District Mayor.

Don't mind them, sir.

You guys are rude.

If we go first, you might grope us or something.

HA HA!

You go first.

What's wrong?

# 24th Night: City of God

Well, hello.

Oh, you're re, too, other?

Don't mind them, sir.

You guys...

No harass-ment?

We're okay.

Are you okay? He didn't touch you or anything, did he?

Hello!

CLANG

And this is for Narimatsu-san on Fourth Street.

For Tanaka-san on Third Street. And Yokoyama-san on Second Street.

Okay.

Okay!

It's one of the Life Counseling Office's most important jobs.

Please deliver these to them.

Got it!

We got it.

Thank you very much!

I'm good with my hands.

I couldn't do it.

I can't believe you make all of these little things.

I've been doing it for over two hundred years, so I'm used to it.

Two hundred years, huh?

.....

This city and this world have changed a lot in those two hundred years.

I guess that's how it is.

And they're not all bad, either.

Well...

Huh?

BONK

BONK

I always welcome skirts getting shorter.

HM...

ぴら

FLIP

Yae-san. I don't see the tag for Takagi-san on Fourth Ave.

Really?

はい

OKAY.

Can you come with me?

I might have left it in my work-room.

I wonder if I should submit a report about him to the ethics board.

I'll help you.

What? Huh?

Whoa!

What's wrong, Ao?

Whoa!

Sorry about my perverted brother.

It's okay.

I'm used to it!

Wh-What's that?

I rented it for the festival.

Oh, you're all here.

Every-thing all right?

Hello?

I...I'm guessing that's you, Hime-san?

I see.

So I kept it.

But they said I could keep it because it's old.

はぁ, GASP

キラ SPARKLE

What are you going to use it for...

YAE'S ROOM
PLEASE KNOCK!
Oh.
CLICK
Let me take a look.
Is this Yae-san's room?
OH!
I'm not that happy.
Y-You're not a kid anymore, so you shouldn't be so happy to wear that thing.
おお
WHOA.
OH.

Bears...

GRR GRR GRR GRR

Ack! I'm sorry!

Kotoha-chan...

You shouldn't look at people's private things.

ギラーン GLEAM

Oh, how cute.

I don't have any use for it.

What?

ギラーン GLEAM

Do you want this, Yae-san?

SMILE

SMILE

It's my daily routine.

You're so spirited.

You were on patrol, Hime?

She looks so happy.

HUG

HUG

WOW.

SMILE

You have the best rate in the district and even in all of Eastern Japan.

Both the crime rate and arrest rate are lower than average.

Our city has a low crime rate, right?

Oh yeah.

GETS UP

Of course it does!

Although we don't know if patrolling affects that.

That's horrible! I need to step up my patrol!

HUFF! HUFF! HUFF!

ROLL

I came to tell you guys about it because the neighboring city was hit recently.

There's a group of burglars that's been going around the state.

MM!

Geez! You're always so easygoing about these things!

HUFF HUFF!

ROLL

BEAR 3

Don't worry about it.

Plus I get sleepy at night.

I know.

You are a young woman, after all.

But you can't patrol at night, okay?

I told you before

That's how it was designed.

Don't worry. It's difficult for crime to happen in this city.

?

I am...

...the land god of this city.

A land god doesn't exist because a city has been built.

A city is built because a land god was there.

THUMP

Yes.

This city is me.

Well, let's start...

...the night patrol.

Someone's doing something bad to my city.

I feel it as if they were doing it to my body.

HM.

むず

TWITCH

The wealthiest looking house...

All right.

SST

Okay.

Let's get this done and get out of here!

SCREECH

SST

!

Stop it right there!

Damn! Is that the police?!

BAM

I should go out like this every night.

CLINK

Why a bear?

A bear?!

Gah!

POW

POW

ACK!

Surrender!

BLAM

THUD

ばた

THUD

ばた

Hey!

Don't worry. It's not fatal.

CLINK

A

CLICK

Tsk.

ROLL

Hey, get up, you rats!

Good-for-noth-ings.

KICK

GRAB

Don't get in our way.

.....

CLINK

Don't do anything stupid.

!

GRIP

. . . . . .

I guess I'll tie you up until we're done.

THUD

!

Why...

Why you...!

BLAM

HSOOHM

KA-BOOM

Don't worry.

It's not fatal.

CLINK

ドキッ

RATTLE

ドキッ

CLINK

CLINK

CLINK

So dangerous these days.

A gun, huh?

Eeeek!

スッ SST

SST

So.

THUMP

ゴロ

Russian roulette. ♪

Let's begin...

Hardcore version!!

Oh, it's not one out of six, but five out of six.

R-Russian...?

F-Five out of six?!

!

CLICK

Eek!

THUMD

CLICK カチン

Oh, you're lucky.

Well, then.

GRIP

ROB

TREMBLE

TREMBLE

Dear Lord...

It's good to be pious.

You're begging the gods, now?

Oh.

Yes.

You're in luck.

THUMP

You're really in luck.

Because...

...you're looking at a god.

AH

EEEK!

CLICK

It's empty.

Just kidding.

HUM-dee-dum.

So.

Time to fix Mr. Bear now.

This is easy.

STAB

STAB

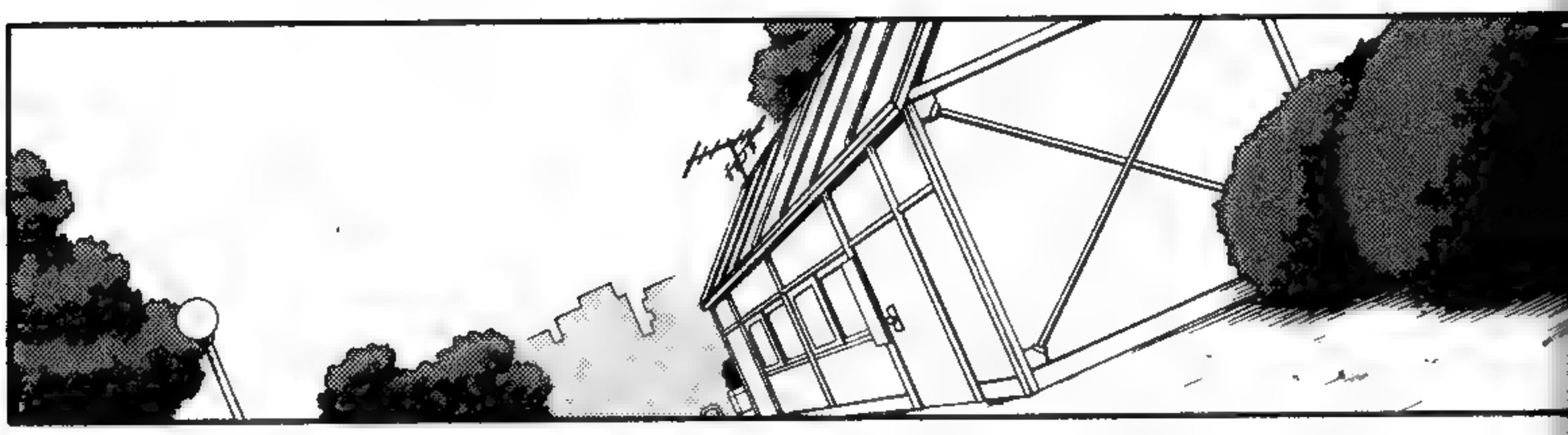
Ow.

Ouch.

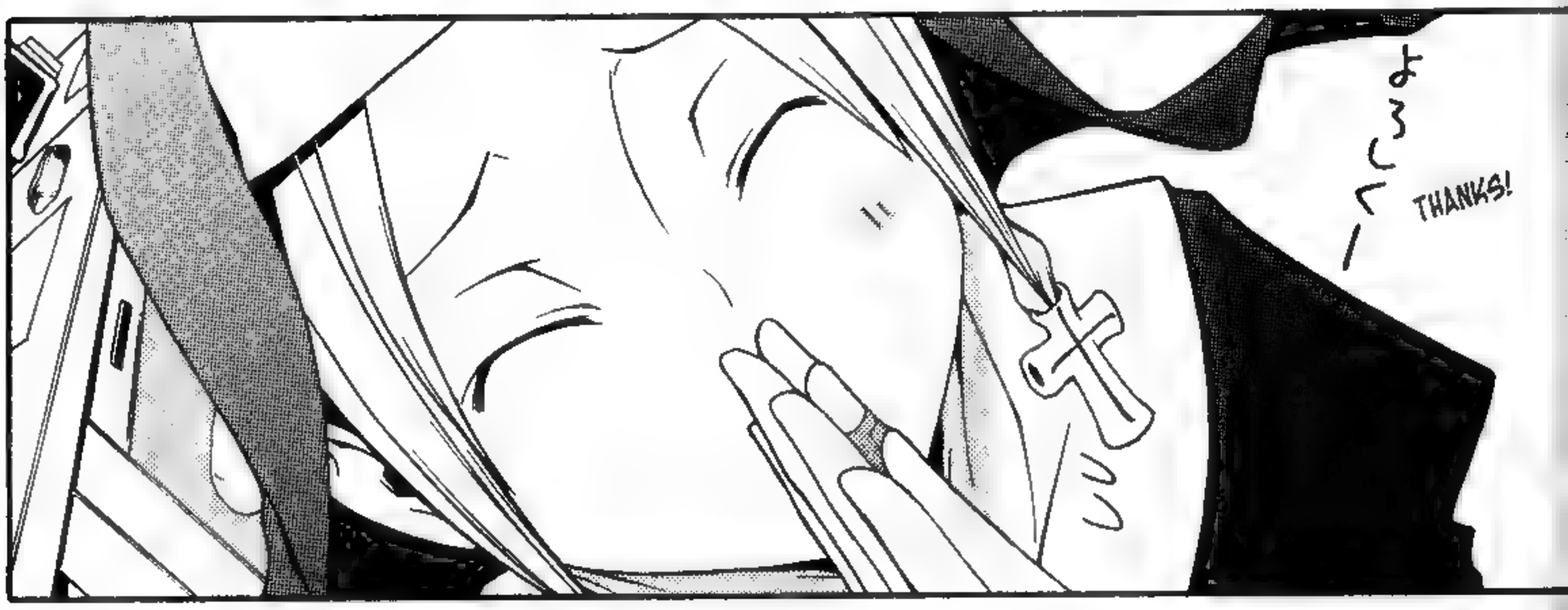
I'm good with my hands, so this is a cinch.

STAB

Ouch.



It's no problem.
What is this bear, anyway?
STITCH
STITCH


THANKS!

Urgh
!

にやにや SMIRK

Why are those girls smirking?

にやにや SMIRK

Don't smirk!

Another peaceful day.

**24th Night: City of God  The END**

Yozakura Quartet 5

# Primary Stages of Yozakura Quartet

5

## Morning Mass

ティクトク

ティクトク

ティクトク

ティクトク

ティクトク

ティクトク

ティクトク

ティクトク

ティクトク

CREAK
CREAK
CREAK
CLICK
カチッ
FLINCH
FLINCH
FLINCH
Argh !
TAP
WAKE UP.
カバッ
Yawn.
Morning already?

# 25th Night: Overlapping

Don't worry about preparing the soup. Eat your breakfast.

Houran

Or you'll be late.

Rin-chan.

STIR STIR

Oh, I'M almost done.

I'll eat it soon.

RATTLE

sk.

Aw, darn it.

You won't beat me for another ten years.

I won't lose next time, Jinroku-ojii-san.

I'M so blessed.

RUB

RUB

S-Sir?

Y-Your beard is hurting me!

You helped prepare the stock again.

GRAB

Ohhh, Rin!

You're such a hard worker!

SQUEEZE

BONK.

Stop it already.

Of course.

モゾモゾ

RUSTLE

I'M the one who's blessed.

They've been so good to me.

I've been under their care for two years.

Rin-chan.

ガチャ

CLICK

You're going to be late.

Oh.

Oh yeah. I'll leave soon.

SWISH

PLOP

I'm going to be late.

Let's go, ma'am!

.....

Oh.

HMM.

HMM.

Let's see.

TMD

DASH

You're going to be late.

I should check on it before I go.

Okay.

Just a little bit longer.

Whoa.

CATCH

TOSS

I'M leaving.

RATTLE RATTLE

Don't forget this.

WAVE

WAVE

WAVE

Okay!

I'm going now!

ばた
DASH
ばた

。。。。。。

Hey!

Good Morning!

She looks more tired than usual.

First period is PE, so I made her wear it.

Yeah.

Why is she wearing gym clothes?

Good Morning!

Moof Mornin'...

I see.

zzz

She went to the Senate yesterday, so she's tired.

And this one's for you.

TOSS

Here's your lunch.

THANKS!!

Morning! And thanks!

Gotcha!

CATCH

Please wait 'til noon... Oh, she's already eating it!

It's your lunch!

I'll eat it on my way to school!

MUNCH

TROD

Okay.

We are demons, so we have to go to the school within the city.

Not that I'm upset or anything.

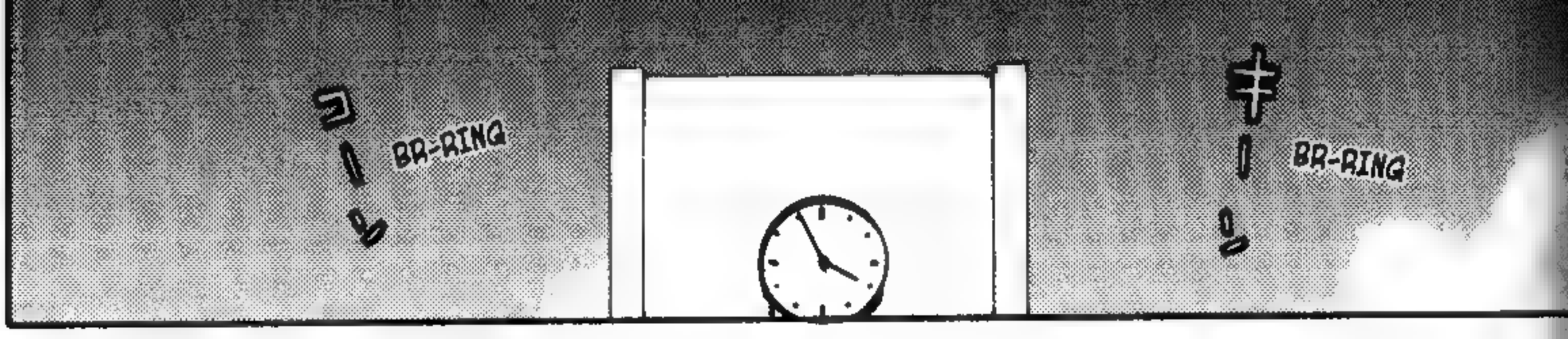
I've made lots of human friends.

You're going to be late!

Tokyo Express

Sakurashin Town Station

Kotoha-chan is a half-demon, so she's allowed to go to school in another district.


BR-RING
BR-RING

All done!
Phew.

DASH
Okay then.

Chinese Food
BATTLE
I'M leaving now!

Chinese Food
SLAM
I'M home!

I love their rice crackers.

Should I buy some there?

Hello!

ガラガラ RATTLE

As usual.

Let's see. It's the rice cracker shop... Takada-san's place.

ドロドロ TROD TROD

Hey, Rin!

Oh.

HM?

I wonder if I looked hungry.

Would you like a bag?

I'll take it.

What's with those rice crackers?

I bought some, and they gave me another bag.

See ya.

I have a doctor's appointment today.

Okay, see you later.

Appoint-ment...?

I should let Hime-chan and Touka-chan know.

PLIP

♪

Well, then.

I can finish prepping all day tomorrow.

Rin

Oh, I should head back now.

TROT

CROWDED

It's always like this.

She's okay, so help with the restaurant!

Geez!

What if Rin's lost or some-thing?

Hey, how do you send a text message?

It's a nice day out today.

TROO

Mmmmm!

CHIRP

Aack!

TROO

Huh?

Hey, Kotoha-chan.

TROO

Aren't you going to be late for school, Rin?

Oh, morn-ing!

TROO

BATTLE

THUD

But...

Today's a holiday.

SLIDE

I bet there are others who forgot, too.

Like two others.

I don't think so.

Ouch.

Shoot! We could have chosen not to go?

It's not a choice.

Oh.

Hey!

HONK

OKAY.!

I'll call you for a lunch delivery.

Darn.

I guess I'll go to the office, then.

Oh, thanks.

We can open the restaurant.

Just wait a moment.

Oh, hey...

SLAM

Are you doing breakfa today?

I forgot to eat this morning.

Oh.

Well, maybe for a little bit.

Oh yeah.

You're an officer, too!

You can't park there!

Oh.

You really can't, Shidou-kun.

にっこり

SMILE

Ma'am!

Oh, good morning! Okay, I'll move immediately!

She surprise me.

She has a lot of power sometimes.

That's right!

I'll leave it at the station!

WASH

WASH

Phew.

Oh yeah.

I have to ask the office what they want to order.

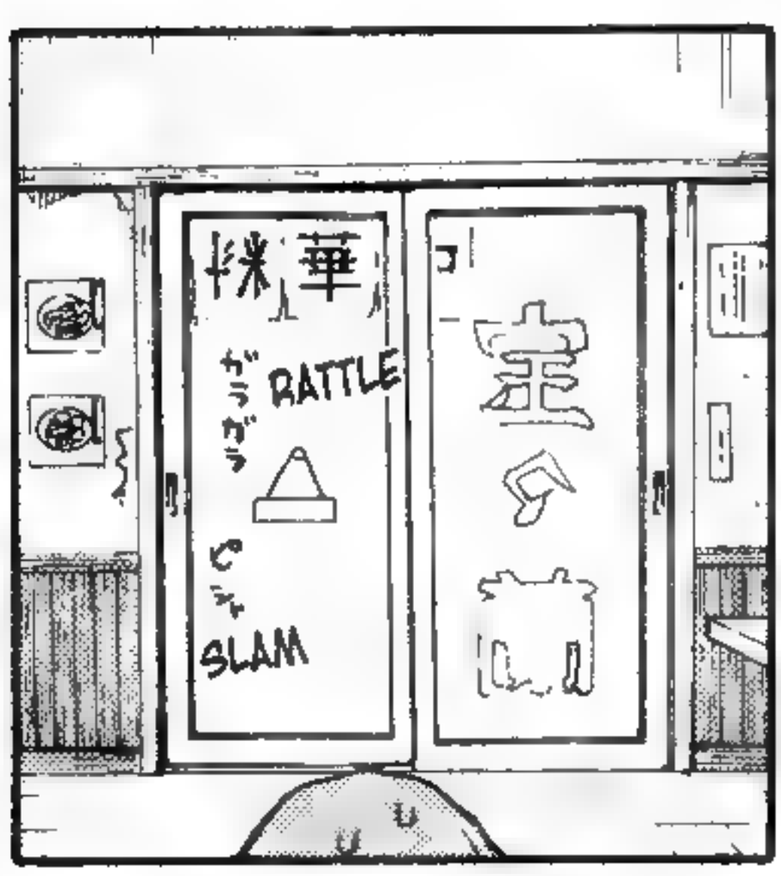
BEEP

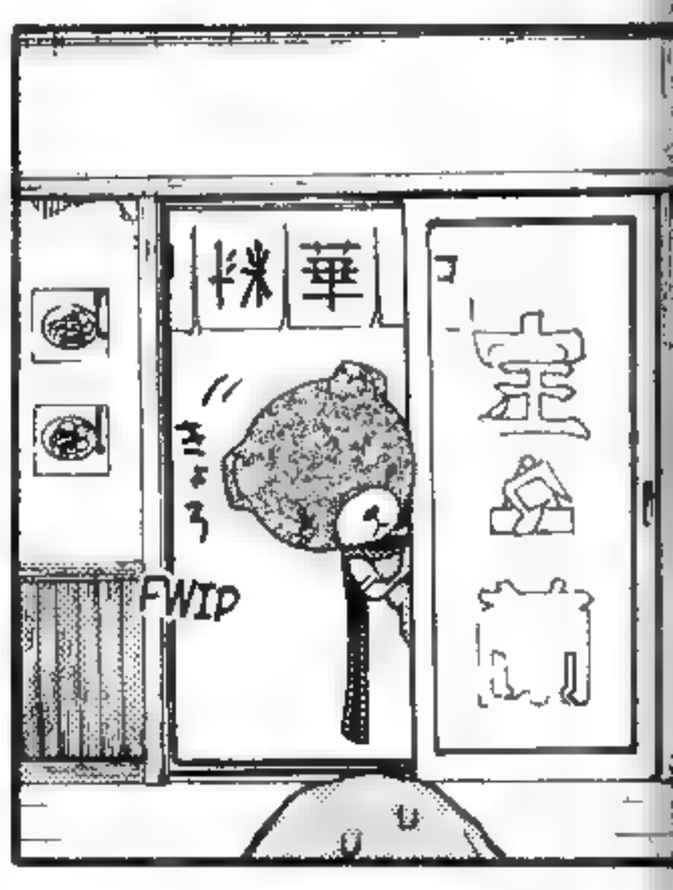
RIN

Oh, is this Kotoha-chan?

About the delivery...

RATTLE






M-Ma'am! A bear! There's a bear!

What's wrong?

You're so mean!

Your beard hurts!

CHUNGS

I don't look like a bear!

Maybe.

Oh, that's true.

We're not in the mountains... Are you sure you didn't mistake my husband for a bear?

PHEW.

PHEW

Oh well.

SWING

SWING

BUZZ

The owner is so silly.

Let's see now.

SLAM

CLICK

ん！っ MMM!

Hello!

Oh.

'Cause there's no smoking inside the church.

Ahh. This taste sooo good.

HM...

I guess this is good timing.

Hurry up and come back to the office, guys.

Oh, Akina.

Hey!

?

Somewhere we can talk quietly.

Let's go somewhere.

All right.

So...

RATTLE

Why did you come here? Huh?!

Don't be such a nitwit.

Oh yeah, I should bring it out.

Listen to me!

What should I eat?

Hurry up and sit down!

Oh, hello.

Oh, hello, ma'am!

I gathered you guys today because...

THUMP

Well...

...for the Blossoming of the Seven Pillars.

Enjin is really starting to prepare...

!

I'm sure the grudge from his ancestors is no small thing.

THUMP

If things go on as is, this city will...

Last time, he was just checking you all out. Testing your strength.

THUMP

It's perfect!

It's all done!

TA-DAH!

GASP

L-Let me have a bowl of that.

Me, too.

Us, too.

.....

New ramen?!

Ramen sensor

FLINCH

I-I'm sorry. I just wanted to show a new ramen I've been working on...

CLICK カチ

Fine. Eat. But listen to what I have to say.

And he gathered the best of them all.

Enjin's been working on his own so far.

But he teamed up with the enemy. They're called "demon hunters."

...!

Dragon killers, vampire hunters...

Exorcists...

Oh yeah.

And Necro-mancers, too.

CRASH

Uh...
Um...

Necro-
mancers
...
?

Some of you may know them already.

The peaceful days are about to end.

SQUEEZE

At this rate, there's no chance for any of the demons in this town.

It's just a matter of time before everything is taken.

SLURP

SLURP

SLURP

SLURP

SLURP

Why are you eating, too?!

But this is good, sir.

Incredible!

It's so good!

Hey, are you listening?! You're all eating!

CRUMPLE

Your new menu is great!

CREAK

Thanks for the Meal!

Geez

THUMP

We leveled up!

We're all powered up now...

...so we're ready!

Me, too!

Me, too!

Me, too.

Hey, guys...

BUZZ BUZZ

I'll continue my patrol.

OKAY.

Let's go back to the office and work some more.

Shut up, Yoshi-boy.

They gotcha there, District Mayor.

Heh heh.

RATTLE

SLAM

Huh?

By the way, District Mayor...

You got it wrong.

Heh.

You're just a kid, even at fifty.

Are you still gonna call me that?

If the demons are in trouble...

SST

It's a town for humans and demons.

But this isn't a demon town.

桜新
Sakura-Shim

Usually Hime an the othe demons protec this tow

That's what it's about.

GRAB

...the humans will protect the demons.

CHOP

And please...

there's no way a human can fight against a demon.

We should let Kime-chan and Shidou-kun handle them.

THUMP

It's not just the demons, but the whole world that's in trouble.

What are you saying?

What? Is that true?

Uh...

Oh, but...

...the Necro-Mancer that Rin knows...

Z LIFT

...So bring her to me, all right?

...I want to talk to her...

SLURP

Rin.

You're one lucky girl.

Hmph.

CLICK

...and a demon...

A human...

...are both protecting you under one roof.

That's true.

Oh, wait please!

CLUNK

Let's go home, Mariabell.

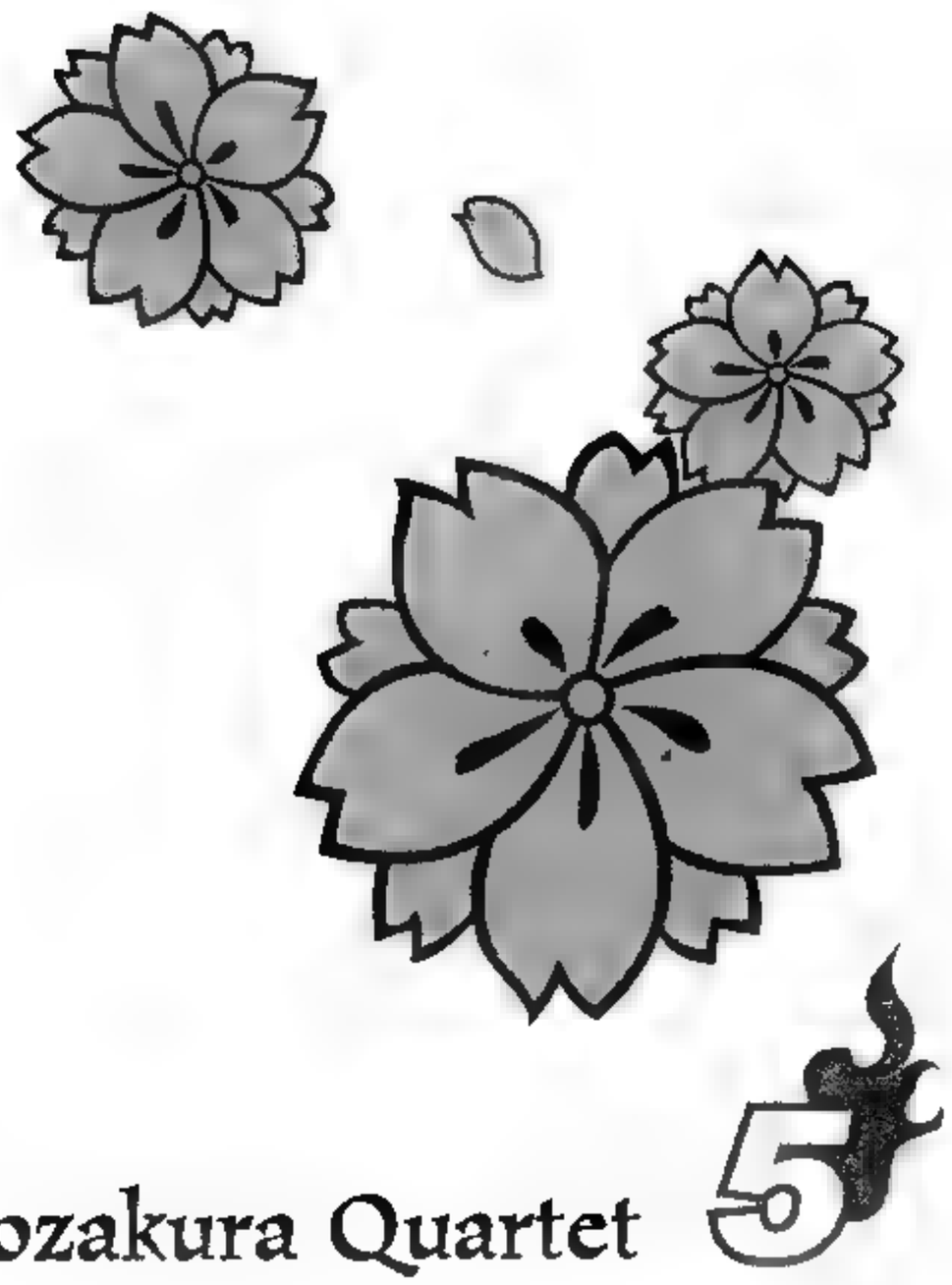
Well, we'll leave all the little things for Yae to work out.

It'll be 3,500 yen.*

Darn it!

*Approx. $35

**25th Night: Overlapping The END**



Yozakura Quartet 5

# Primary Stages of Yozakura Quartet

5

New Ramen Recipe
Good ramen for Hime's health
Low-fat version

KICK

The Seven Pillars...

The key to the tuning that attracts demons.

But the truth is they're Trojan Horses that Enyou Hiizumi sent to this world.

Doesn't matter either way to me.

CRUMBLE

THUMP

...My dead toy is here.

KICK

KICK

Because of this...

Are you listening?

Hey.

I came to take her back.

You thief.

# 26th Night:
# Sea of Stars (Part 1)

RIN

...

What's wrong?

Oh, nothing.

It's just that...

?

Oh?

What are you doing?

Look at this.

HM?

Hey, Hime-chan!

How easily they forget...

ANGRY

People should be more responsible when they drink!

I wonder if a drunk did this.

I know.

How terrible.

My head is kinda...

?

WOBBLE WOBBLE

What's wrong, Rin-chan? You look pale.

Oh.

I'll take care of the sign.

I'll go with you, so let's head home.

You should keep warm and sleep when you have a cold!

It came on so suddenly.

Did you catch a cold?

That's good.

I appre-ciate it.

あざーす Thanks.

← KLUTZ

You're going to gain weight.

Let's go.

Eat, huh?

And I'll eat something there, too.

See you later, Juri-san.

Okay.

I see.

I have an urgent message, so I have to find him.

Memo

I exer-cise.

You guys are coming too?

Akina went to lunch and left his cell phone behind.

Okay. Thank you.

Rin-chan, if it gets worse, please come see me.

.....

Let's fix it.

Well then...

!

It's rotted...?

...?

Chinese Food

宝々顔

ｶﾞﾗｯ... RATTLE

That was delicious.

HM?

Hey!

TMP

TMP

There he is.

Here.

What? Really? Sorry about that.

PAT

PAT

You forgot your cell phone, Akina.

ﾓｰ Geez.

Why are you all toge-ther?

TWITCH 7

!

It's from the Senate.

What did they say?

They want him to go see them about the demon hunters.

...

I wonder if the demon hunters...

...

About the demon hunters?

I'll just defeat them as they come.

Right, Akina?

Hit and toss.

Which are they?

...or demons.

...are humans...

Huh?

What do you think, Akina?

Well...

But if they can fight against demons, maybe they're demons.

Since they hunt demons, aren't the human?

If my instincts are right...

SCRATCH

That's true.

Yeah.

...I think it's a little more complicated than that.

?

?

?

SCRATCH

SCRATCH

Then it'll be up to me to deal with them.

Maybe.

At the Senate, I mean.

Maybe that's what they want to talk about.

If you're gonna do that, give the scarf back!

S-Sorry.

Don't take it away.

I Mean . . .

Ugh!

No!

SWISH

GRAB

Then I'll go.

CRUMPLE

Okay

You shouldn't go, Akina.

After what happened last time, can you stay calm?

UM...

GRAB

SWISH

That's right.

I think that's good.

You guys...

There's only two of you.

TA-DAH

If it's just to hear them talk, we can go instead.

Yep!

The Four Lords of Hiizumi Life Counseling Office.

SPARKLE

SPARKLE

Hey!

.....

I want to buy summer clothes.

ぎゅっ GULP

You guys want to go shopping, don't you?

Hey!

Oh well. Be careful.

DASH

Let's go!

We'll see you later!

ガラガラ RATTLE

Are you all right?

I'm getting dizzy.

Oh.

DAZED ぼー

Rin, you're really looking pale.

Huh?

PHEW.

I'll go.

Are you sure?

I'M fine! I'll deliver these and then rest.

You're back, Rin?

I was just about to go Make the deliveries, as you were running late.

It's close by, so it's no big deal.

Takei-san's house?

You don't feel well?

See ya!

Oh.

. . . .

I wonder if she'll be okay?

A Jiang Shi, sick...?

HUFF!

HUFF!

I need to go deliver this and...

TWITCH

Hmmm.

I-I guess I'm not doing so well.

Huh?

What's wrong with my...

GRAB

SNAP

!

TWITCH

...body...?

?!

TH-THUMP

Let's go to the clinic.

GRAB

Geez.

TMD

TMD

You don't look good.

You shouldn't be working.

CRASH

Oh.

FLING

ZWISH

...!

Yah !

BAM

BAM

BOOM

ZWIP

WHOOSH

Urgh!

THUMP

WHOOSH

WHOOSH

POW

Yah!

Whoa!

WHAM

RUMBLE

RUMBLE

CLANG

...Ah.

RUMBLE

RUMBLE

HMMM.

This isn't going to go well.

Yikes.

HUFF

Move it!

Let us through!

SST

Huh?

Rin-chan?

Oh, it's you, Jun. We were wondering what the commotion was.

D JUMP

!

SLAM

Ugh.

Her name tag!

Kyo-chan. Touka-chan.

Take her tag off!

!

TWIST ぐぐ

GRAB ガッ

GRAB ガッ

Wh-What's with her strength?

Why?

ぐ

DROOP

TH-THUMP

That's right!

GRAB

PHEW

TH-THUMP

KA!!!

CAM

What?

Argh!

CRACK

CRACK

CRACK

Ugh.

GRIP

The cuffs...

Onii-chan.

Urgh...

SPARK

SPARK

Darn it!

We have no choice.

GRAB

THUMP

WOBBLE

CATCH

Oh!

!

Phew.

Ma'am!

But she was moving...

A Jiang Shi can't move without its tag.

Thanks.

I'll look into it some more.

HUFF!

HUFF!

HUFF!

DASH

DASH

HUFF!

HUFF!

DASH

HUFF!

TRIP

Sob

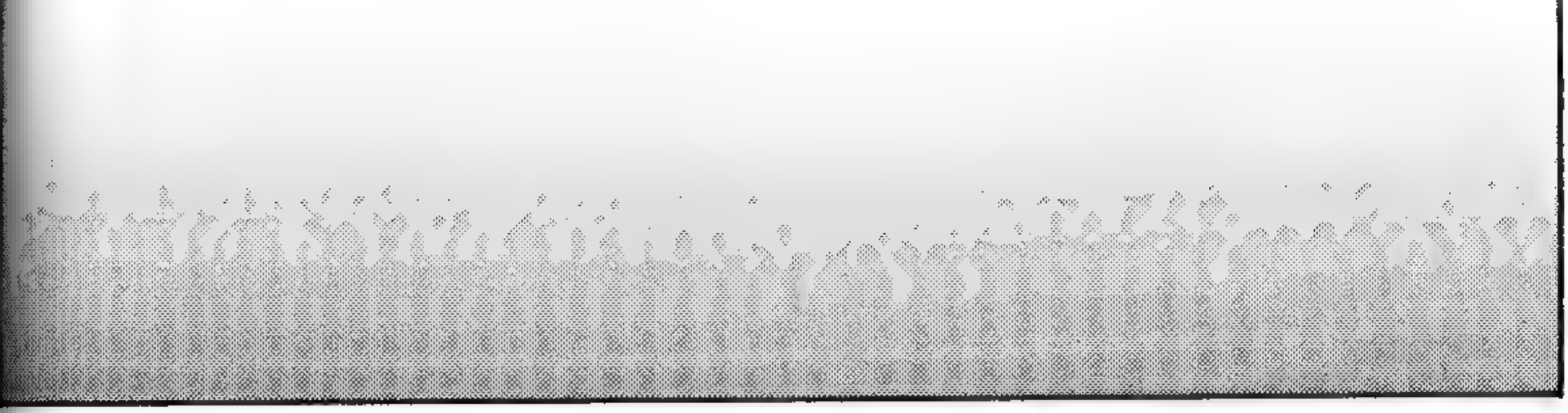
THUD

OW!

Come.

Come.

I'll protect you.



. . . . . .

Why am I awake without my tag?
Huh? . . . . . .
RIN
Where am I?

GRIND
7"
...

Long time no see.

7"
7"
7"
GRIND

sigh

You left your master and ran so far away.

Gah!

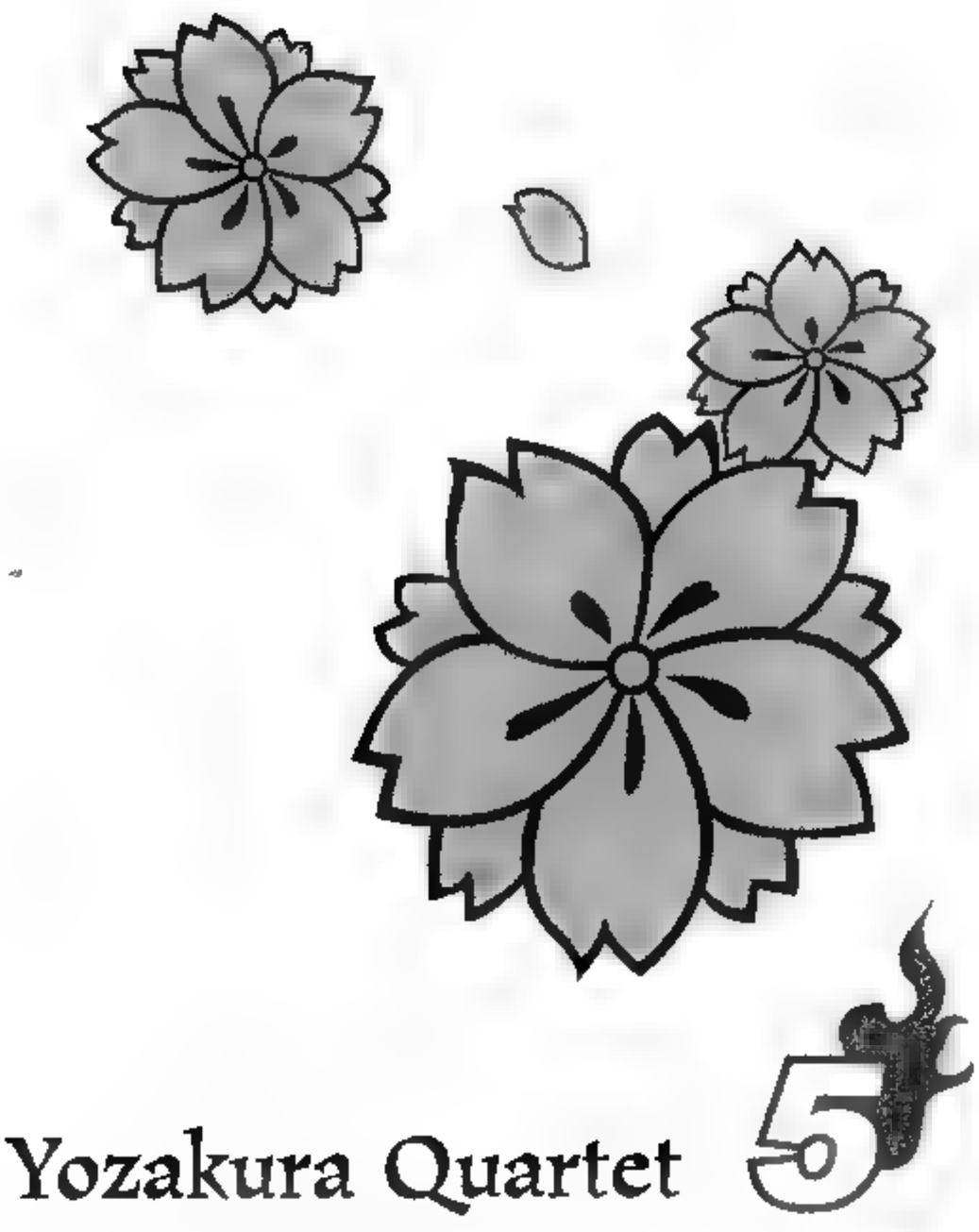
THUD

You naughty girl...

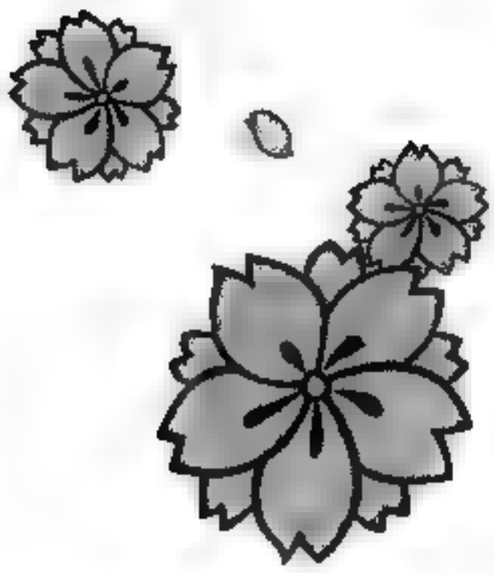
GRIND
7"
7"

I told you...

I'd protect you.



Yozakura Quartet 5



# Primary Stages of Yozakura Quartet

Listen to Me, Akina!

IROD

IROD

I've heard it before.

I wanted to go check up on Rin, but My wife said . . .

We have customers, so we couldn't both leave the restaurant!

That is why we closed the store early today.

CREAK

I know, but still . . .

Oh, quit it!

I know, but . . .

Juri-chan is with her, so she'll be fine.

.....

Juri-san?

?

What's wrong?

Juri-san.

Juri...

DASH

# 27th Night:
# Sea of Stars (Part 2)

Juri-san.

Juri-san!

SNORT

...

Ouch.

I was caught by surprise and got knocked out.

What happened?

Hey!

Where's Rin?

What happened to Rin, Juri-chan?!

Honey!

She looks fine.

GETS UP

Argh.

Darn, they got me.

She was kidnapped.

I'm sorry.

A necro-mancer.

...but a demon hunter.

!

It couldn't have been anyone else...

Who kid-napped her?

CLENCH

TURN

Hey!

Old Man!

...!

You were with her! How could you let this...

A necroman-cer? You mean Rin's old...

Wh-Why?!

BAM

Phew.

Are you all right?

Old Man...

KLAK

BOOM

You don't have the right to blame someone you couldn't do unless you do it yourself!

The right thing to do isn't laying blame, but getting the job done.

That's what you would have done before!

When did you become such a wimp?

I'm so disappointed in you!

.....

Sure.

You take care of Juri-chan!

PLOP

Whoa.

STANDS UP

All right!

Okay.

We'll search for her. Let's go, Akina!

That's right.

GRIP

WIGGLE

WIGGLE

All right!

Don't take on more than you can handle.

I'll get ready and join you when I feel better.

DASH

Ready?

Mochi

Hey !

Powdered *80 yen

Red bean *80 yen

*80 yen = 80 cents

I'll give you half.

Hime-chan.

Yay!

I don't swallow them!

Like this.

I eat them.

Mochi →

You must be some kind of demon Mochi swallower, huh?

Hey, Junta.

The mayor's buying Mochi?

It's Hime !

What's wrong with buying Mochi?

もちもち CHEW CHEW

Oh... yeah.

Is everything okay?

I heard Rin-chan had problems earlier today.

U

Huh?

You got it wrong, Hime-chan.

No one was injured, but a lot of things were destroyed.

I'm sorry about the trouble it caused.

...and I think I'm speaking for most of us...

...but as a human in this town...

I'm sure you got a lot of complaints about Kohime-chan last time...

もちもち CHEW CHEW

We're all...

That's not it.

Everyone was worried about Rin-chan today.

No one was thinking "oh, those demons again."

...worried...

...for the demons. Our neighbors.

I see.

But I won't let anything like that happen again.

I promise, as mayor of this town!

She's settled for now, I'm told.

Well...

That's good.

Well, my allowance...

ぱぉ OPEN

So why don't you?

Umm...

Huh? Don't you get a big salary for being the mayor?

She's matured so much.

That wasn't enough mochi.

I should buy another one.

GROWL

Oh my.

Hmmm.

Like remodeling the preschool.

She uses most of it for city funds.

I want to buy summer clothes, too.

Spending her allowance wisely, huh?

I guess she's a mayor, but a high school girl, too.

I can't receive gifts as mayor!

N-No, you can't!

SHAKE

SHAKE

Oh.

One for Hime-chan.

And one for Kyo-chan.

What?

Please give me two.

No, it's not.

It's not for the mayor...

It's a treat for Hime-chan.

Is that wrong?

Since my patrol is done...

Yeah.

もちもち CHEW CHEW

But I'M worried about Rin-chan.

WHOOSH

...I was gonna go see her.

Whoa.

WHOOSH

Whoa.

Whoa...

WHOOSH

WHOOSH

WHOOSH

WHOOSH

HM?

Hime!

What ?!

She's over there.

There you are. Rin was kidnapped by a hunter.

TROT たたっ

CHEW もちもち

LIFT ヒョイ

I don't ...

WHOOSH

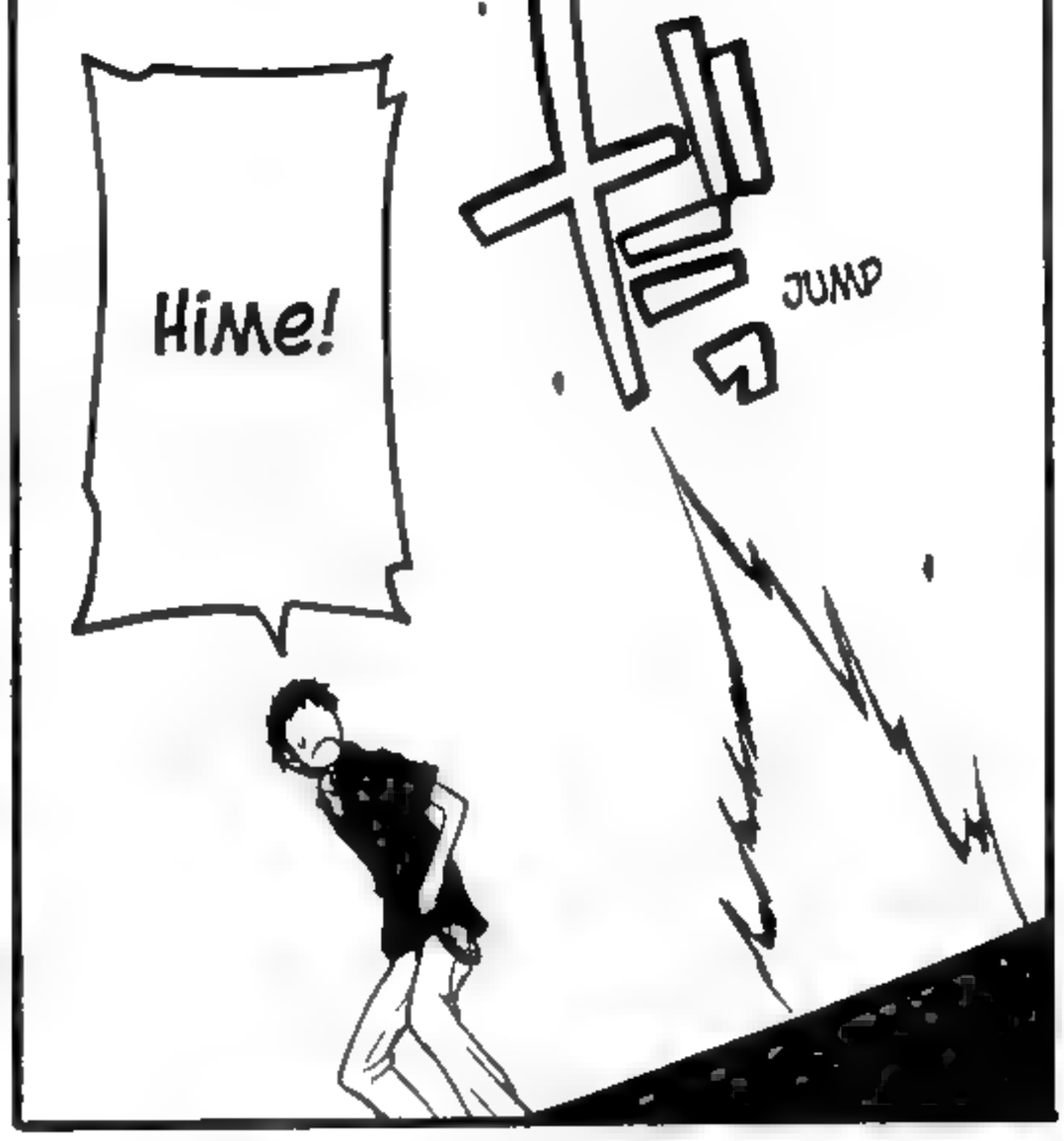
... have a lot of time for you.

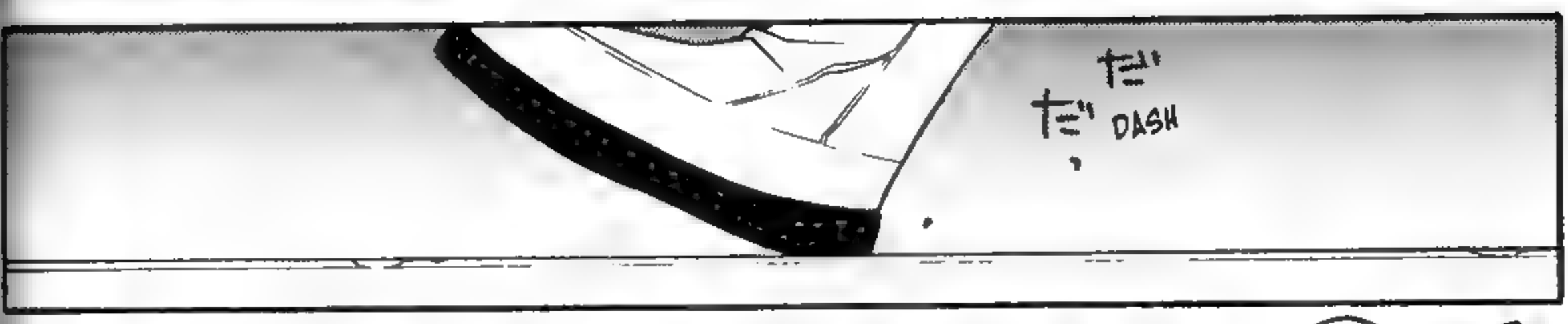
!

WHOOSH

WHOOSH

DASH
THUMP


Hime!
JUMP


DASH

RING
RING
Whoa.
DASH
DASH
DASH

Hello?
DASH
What?
BEEP

About what?!

I thought you might have forgotten.

What is it?

DASH

!

So you can chase them without worrying about it!

DASH

Everyone knows you're a demon now.

Yah!

...right.

GRIP

Whoa.

TRIP

DASH

That's...

!

It's the mayor

Akina! Kyosuke!

Back me up!

Got it!

DASH

WHAM

WHOOSH

Got her!

SCREECH

WHOOSH

DASH

Well.

I guess I'll play with you for a bit.

Tsk.

うはは
うはは
くはは
BLISS
のほほ～ん
I'm so happy we found some cute clothes.
Yeah.
They were cheap, too.

Kotoha-chan, your phone's ringing.
BEEP
Yikes!
I wonder what...
?

SMILE
Let's go home then!
I think we're forget-ting some-thing...
RING RING

Heh heh.

Oh, not at all.

From the sound of it, it seems like you forgot...

I don't mind talking to you or Uzu-san.

But I don't really like Usuzumi-ojii-san.

Hmph.

Akina-kun told us that you were coming, but it's getting late.

Ha ha ha. I'M sorry!

Whoa !

I heard that!

BONK

How are you?

Oh, good evening.

We don't have time to kid around.

Hmph.

What?!

The town is being attacked by someone under Enjin's control.

It's odd.

Oh yeah. Why are you helping us, though?

I'll tell you something about the hunters.

THUMP

Talk to you later.

Hey, Ao! We need to head home fast!

Wait. Why did you think you were heading over here?

I'll tell you later.

SQUEEZE

Kotoha-chan, let me listen, too.

Shidare.

Say no more.

SQUEEZE

The deputy is worried about you guys.

About the town and the residents.

Hello?

Oh don't mind us.

Please continue.

BOO!

The hunters are all...

All what?

What a beautiful sky.

What?

THUMP

What's your name?

.....

I'm Sakurashin City's Mayor.

Hime Yarizakura!

My name is Zakuro.

Zakuro Kurumaki.

You're pretty strong.

Very strong.

GRIP

But...

It's normal for demons to be strong.

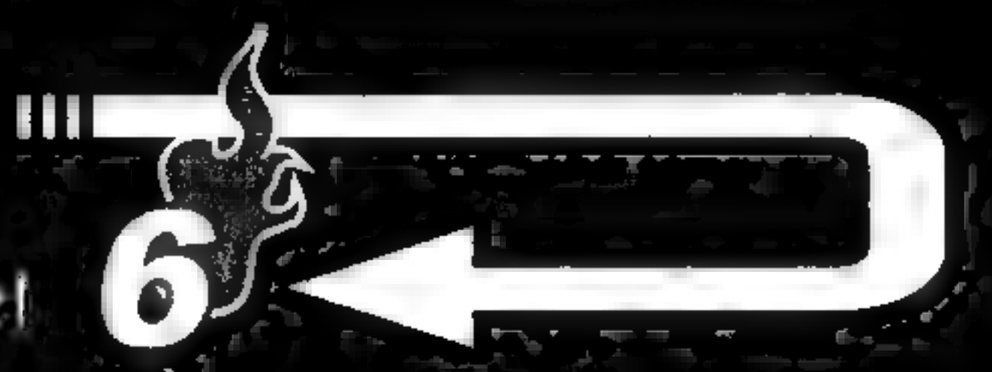
You're no fun.

Isn't there anyone else in this town...

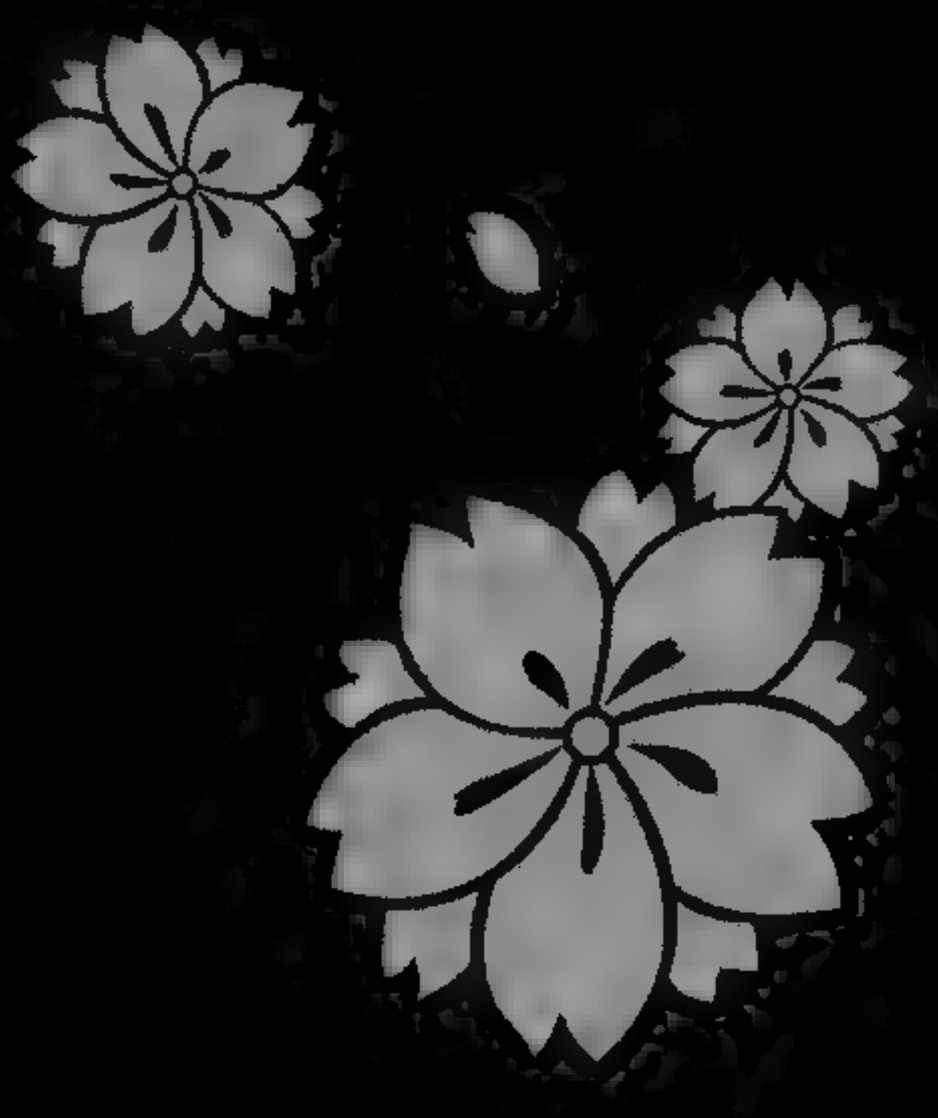
...Who's More Fun?

?

To be continued

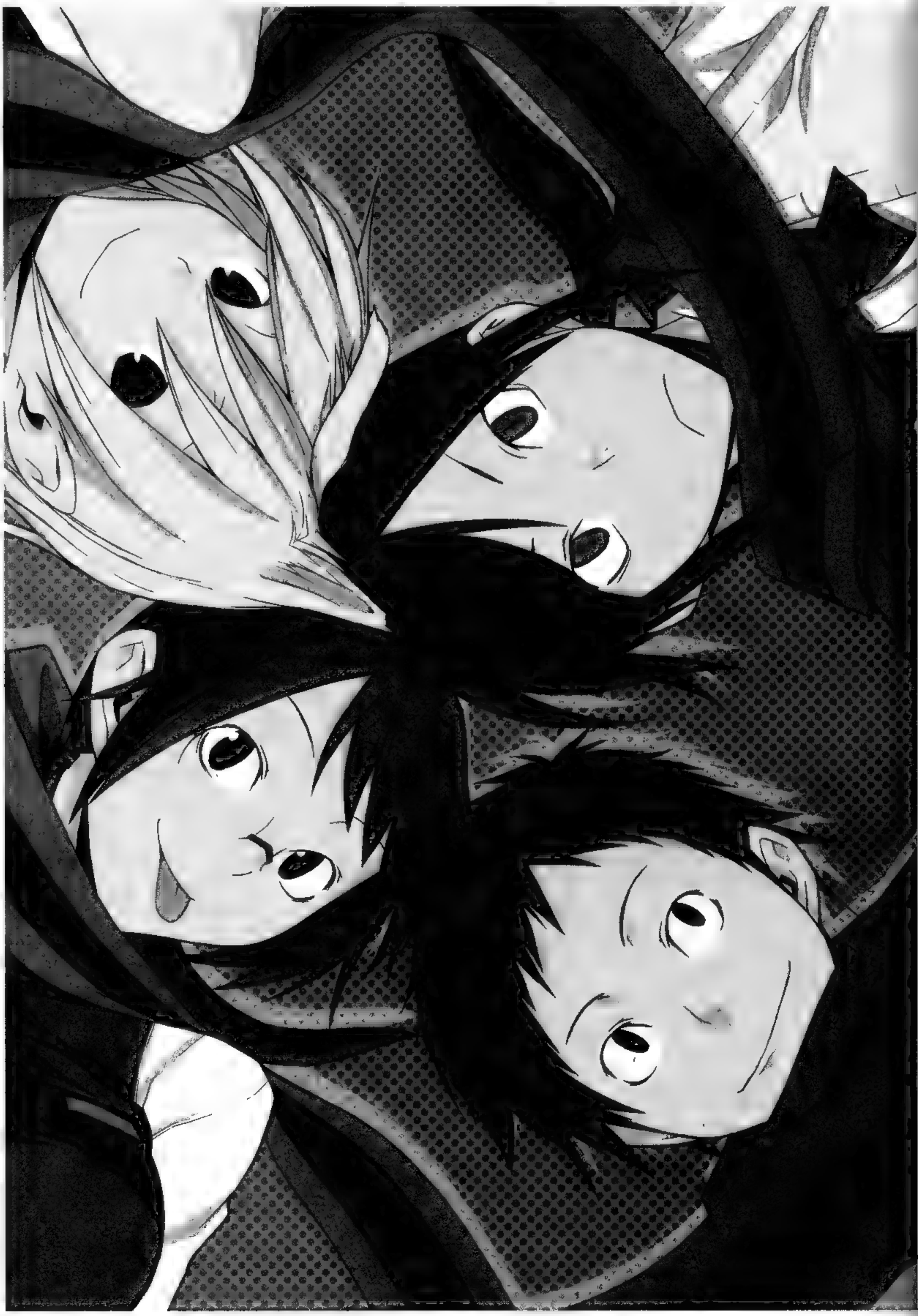



Yozakura Quartet



27th Night: Sea of Stars (Part 2) - The END

Yozakura Quartet 2008 Calendar Cover Art



Anime Series to Start

Monthly Shounen Sirius June 2008 Cover Art

# Primary Stages of Yozakura Quartet 5

SCREAM

IAKINA IKYOSUKE

YOZA...!

Let's try for Eel-Mon evolution.

And get eel guts.

Hey!

THUD

Let's skin it.

C'mon eel bowl!

All right! Defeated the Eel-Mon!

Hmph!

Wh-Why are you here?

TA-DAH

Ack! It's the hall monitor!

Why aren't you studying for final exams?!

Please leave.

CREAK

Shall I use this bed?

BEEP

WHIRR

Found intruder...

Security robot

Another one?!

I'm going to live here for a while!

GULP GULP

I'll drink your tea, too!

It's the job of the hall monitor to keep an eye out for delinquents! You have to check up on them even during their private lives!

Please leave!

There!

GRAB

Don't mess up my house!

BONK BONK

Punish-ment!

Another rule breaker? I'll punish her, too!

You shouldn't do it.

I got...

SQUEEZE

WHIRRRR

BEEP

You're not a Machine?

SQUEEZE

SQUEEZE

SQUEEZE

Huh?

Watch out!

KA-BOOM

Destroy!

GRAB

TO D

PLOP

There was someone inside?

You made me upset.

Pretending to be a robot.

Ouch. Are you all right?

ドキン TH-THUMP

Oh.

I know you helped me, but what the heck are you doing?!

POW

ACK!

!

Soft boobs?

What's this?

ギュッ SQUEEZE

Me again?!

No it's not!

Looks good.

Like that.

# Bonus Manga

Thank you very much!

This is the Afterword, which we do after the strange bonus manga.

Thank you for purchasing *Yozakura Quartet* volume 5!

三本 SANCHA

So...

Only a little bit?

No, there's a lot.

So I'd like to talk a little bit about the anime this time.

お。
お。

WOW.

We're getting close to the anime series actually starting.

pre-Scoring

↓

AKA "Puresuko"

How is it different?

So what's different is pre-score.

That's called ADR.

For most anime, voice actors synch their voices to the mouth movements on the screen.

I'll talk about the pre-score.

Pre-score?

Tenraku BBQ House

Me?

About the anime...

You're on the cover.

That's right.

The "pause" where they wait for the other character to finish.

They don't have that "pause" that's common in anime.

Oh!

And the voice actors act based on the flow of the scene. That's called pre-score.

...

WATCHING

Oh.

During the recording session, they only have a rough sketch called a story-board.

I see.

And they draw the animation based on the recorded voice.

Not only is the timing great, but the power of an action scene can be felt in pre-scoring.

Their timing is incred-ible!

Of course, both have their pros and cons.

ADR's timing is the "screen-writer's tempo," while pre-score is for the "voice actor's tempo."

...When you watch the session, it's really rather interest-ing.

REALLY?

So this pre-score...

All the voice actors are really skilled, and the quality of the voices is honestly the best I've ever heard.

It's really amazing.

I'M looking forward to it.

You'll probably be amazed at how natural it sounds when the characters are just chitchatting.

Hope you look forward to it.

. . . . . .

わあ BUZZ
わあ BUZZ

This rehear-sal is...

わあ BUZZ
わあ BUZZ

So the voice actors go over the storyboard and script at home.

They do one run-through rehearsal.

Big group

And then it's time to record!

わあ BUZZ
わあ BUZZ

TH-THUMP

I wonder if it'll be okay.

After that, they do a final check on the script and wait.

Then they have a meeting that lasts about an hour.

In a bad way.

Don't...

...you think it's hectic?

May-be . . .

Compared to ADR, it's hard to tell how the other actors will act in pre-score, so there's a lot of commotion during the rehearsal phase.

The final recording is amazing.

They're pros!

Wow!

It's awe-some!

It's different! It's completely different!

It's...

わあ BUZ
わあ

Talks started around late 2006.

The anime project was decided on around April 2007.

Around volume 2.

The concept is to use the manga as the basis, and concentrate on specific themes.

Hope you enjoy it.

So...

I'm sure you're worried about the plot of the anime.

It doesn't follow the manga verbatim.

The manga isn't completed, but they have to wrap up the anime in twelve episodes.

The anime is made separately from the manga, so I hope you enjoy the anime and the manga each as their own stories.

Hopefully you won't get confused.

I attended their meetings every week, but all I did was review their work.

The series director and Hanada-san, the series concept writer, worked on the concept.

Once the whole concept is decided upon, the scripts for the first six episodes are written. Then the concept is restructured for the latter half of the series.

And we started talking about the script in August 2007.

We've been working on the script for almost a year.

Anime takes a long time to make.

Along with the pre-score, the overall sound of the series is avant-garde.

Hope you enjoy it.

I was surprised when I heard it for the first time.

Whoa! What's going on?

This is amazing, too.

Like a soundtrack?

There's a theme that plays throughout the episode.

Let me listen.

For the theme song and music, I left everything up to them.

Whoa, what happened?!

There was too much text earlier.

CLEARED

So.

There are a lot of stories I want to write about, so I'm currently planning the order.

I wonder whose story is next?

I wonder.

Manga is so much fun.

The manga will continue and will try to be just as entertaining, if not more so.

Will the Rin arc end in the next volume?

Yes it will.

So the anime will be airing soon.

Thanks!

Hope you're looking forward to the next volume!

The next volume is the climax of the Rin arc.

I want to wrap it up neatly.

So...

That is...

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

Yes, there will be a bonus.

"Limited edition" means...

Rin is planned on the cover

Rin

OH.

Volume 6 will be released in December, and there will be a limited edition available.

Editor

Surprise!

And I have one announcement.

Huh?

So the version that'll be in the limited edition...

Yes.

And it's likely that there will be several versions of the city song made (it's not decided yet).

Wow.

TA-DAH

For real?!

"Sakurashin City Song" CD!

This!

But...

Only large bookstores might carry them.

So if you want to get it, please go to the bookstore as soon as it's released.

Since it's a limited edition, it'll sell out pretty quickly, right?

YES.

That's why you announced it.

It's likely that it's a version you can only get on the limited edition.

Alternate dust jacket is included.

We'll probably announce it in the magazine or on the official web-site, so please take a look.

Stories

I don't want anyone to be upset that they didn't know, so I decided to mention it here.

I see.

I don't want to push people to buy the limited edition immediately, but...

It's not decided yet.

Huh ?!

Like in the sound-track CD.

...the limited edition city song might be available in other ways, too.

The timing of this volume's release and the project planning didn't work out.

This is a vague announce-ment.

Sorry.

I'll announce things on my blog.

It's also a product you can't pre-order, so I'll let you know if there's a good way to secure one.

It might be a drama CD.

We know that the city song will be included for sure, but the details are still being planned out.

I'll see you in volume 6! Thanks!

Thanks to my assistants Tenjo-san, Anri-san, Oishi-san, Takahashi-san, and my editor, Kimura-san. And a special thanks to you all, my readers!

My friend told me to redraw volume 1 using the anime script. (That's impossible.)

...this is the end for this volume.

So...

See you later!

# About the Author

Suzuhito Yasuda's cute and colorful character designs, sharp linework, and unique talents have made him a popular artist in the fields of both manga and novel illustration. He has illustrated such Japanese novels as *Kamisama Kazoku*, *Scarlet Sword*, and *Maid Machinegun*. He has also worked on the manga series *Pinky:Comic* and *Ebony & Ivory*; *Yozakura Quartet* is his latest work.

His Preferred Tools:
PowerMAC G4 933Mhz
Apple studio display 17 TFT

PowerMAC G4 Cube
Apple Studio Display 17 CRT

Sony VAIO Notebook PCG542B

# Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more an art than a science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

### *Sakura*

*Sakura* is the Japanese term for cherry blossoms. *Yozakura* in the title refers to *sakura* at night, or viewing *sakura* at night.

### *Jiang Shi*, page 4

A *Jiang Shi* is a Chinese demon. These zombies hop around and prey on living creatures to absorb their *chi* (living energy).

### *Mochi*, page 153

*Mochi* is the Japanese word for "rice cake." It is very sticky.